

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Support for the amendment to claim 7 is found in claim 8 as originally presented. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 11-13 will now be active in this application.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a water-based ink.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Shosho for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their U.S. representative on December 29, 2005. At that time, Applicants' representative argued that none of the cited references disclosed or suggested particles of water-insoluble polymer in which the ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter. The following is intended to expand upon the discussion with the Examiner.

Water-based inks have gained increased popularity in recent times, especially for use in ink-jet printing. Performance properties as to water resistance, light fastness, rubbing density and optical density while maintaining good jetting properties remain desirable properties.

The claimed invention addresses this problem by providing a water-based ink based on a water-insoluble polymer having an ionic group at its end which is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter. Applicants have discovered that such particles of such polymers provide for water-based inks of desirable performance. Such water-based inks are nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art of record.

Claims 1-5

Applicants wish to thank examiner Shosho for allowing claims 1-5.

Claims 7-10

This embodiment of the claimed invention is directed to a water-based ink comprising a water-insoluble polymer having an ionic group at its end and a pigment, wherein the ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter.

The rejections of claims 7-8 and 13 as anticipated by Kato U.S. 6,866,707 and of claims 7 and 11-13 as anticipated by EP 1172421 (EP '421) are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that Kato was not filed with the U.S. patent office until January 27, 2003, well after the filing dates of applicants' Japanese priority applications JP 2002-184509 and JP 2002-382309 of June 25, 2002 and December 27, 2002. In order to perfect applicants' claim to priority, applicants enclose herewith certified English language translations of JP 2002-184509 and JP 2002-382309. Certified copies of JP 2002-184509 and JP 2002-382309 were filed with the U.S. patent office on June 25, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the full benefit to priority to applicants' Japanese priority documents. As Kato was not filed until after the filing dates of applicants' Japanese priority applications, Kato should not be available as prior art and accordingly withdrawal of the rejection based on this reference is respectfully requested.

EP '421 does not disclose an ink in which ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or iniferter.

As noted in the official action, EP '421 merely describes polymerization of monomers which can include an ionic group. There is no disclosure or suggestion of forming a polymer in which the ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter

In contrast the claimed invention is directed to a water-based ink comprising a water-insoluble polymer having an ionic group at its end and a pigment, wherein the ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter. Applicants note

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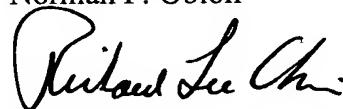
that claim 7 has been amended to recite that the ionic group is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter.

As the cited reference does not describe an ink comprising a pigment-containing water-insoluble polymer having an ionic group which is derived from a chain transfer agent, polymerization initiator or an iniferter, the claimed invention is clearly neither anticipated nor made obvious by these references and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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